

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF IRON IN 1848.—From a Parliamentary return, it appears that the quantity of foreign iron, chiefly Swedish and Russian, imported in 1848, was 23,869 tons bar-iron, 464 tons blooms, 257 tons old iron, and 28,891 l. odds in value of wrought-iron and steel. The quantity of foreign bar-iron exported was 3,432 tons, of steel unwrought 340 tons, of wrought-iron and steel, value 11,560 l. The value of foreign iron retained for home consumption was 17,331 l. Of British iron exported, chiefly to the United States, Holland, Iceland, Denmark, &c. &c., there were 175,650 tons pig, 32,135 tons bar, 17,554 tons bolt and rod, 19,371 tons cast, 76,365 tons wrought, and 61,913 tons steel unwrought, besides 1,913 tons wire and 7,241 tons old iron. The exports of British hardware and cutlery amounted to 18,105 tons, value 1,860,150 l., chiefly to America and Canada, East Indies, &c. Of British machinery and mill-work, the value of exports was 817,656 l., chiefly to Russia, Spain, Italy, Hanse Town, France, Brazil, &c.

EMPLOYMENT OF ARCHITECTS: EXETER ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—The council of this society, in their last report, say:—"Your committee have again, as on several former occasions, received applications for gratuitous plans for the whole or for a portion of churches. They have been obliged, in all these cases, to return a negative answer to the application, on the principle of not interfering with the exertions of professional men, especially as the constant and careful supervision of an experienced architect is as necessary to the satisfactory completion of a work as the promising of a suitable design. There will be always something occurring to call forth the genius of a living mind, and it is in the wise meeting of difficulties that skill is mainly shown; the difference between working by architect and by published plans is similar in kind to that between ornaments carved by hand and those stamped by machinery,—the latter must be a faithful copy of the stamp, but it is a mere lifeless reproduction of one type,—the other has more light and shadow, greater variety of design, and greater freedom in execution, while a due appreciation of the principles of Christian art will effectually check the danger of variety changing into what is opposite in kind, or of freedom degenerating into licentiousness. It needs a living architect to give life to a design; it also needs the recognition of well-defined principles of Christian architecture to inspire and to direct, to spur and to rein, the architect in his conception of a successful work."

MOSAIC GLASS.—We have lately been favoured with a sight of a work of art quite novel. It is called mosaic glass, and is adapted to many different purposes—church windows and church decorations, shop windows, and fan lights, window blinds, staircase windows, &c. It is equal in beauty and transparency to the most brilliant stained glass, and the designs for window blinds and other purposes are very rich. It has been brought out and patented at considerable expense and with much labour; but we have no doubt the company will be amply rewarded, for it requires only to be seen to be appreciated. It is produced at one-sixth the cost of stained glass; but it is not unlikely that its price will be enhanced when it has become well known, as the demand will be great. For church windows it is admirable, from the variety and beauty of the designs; and of its durability, the mode of combining the colour with the glass is a sufficient guarantee. It is also brought out in labels to a large extent, and, indeed, the variety of purposes to which it is applicable is very great.—*Leeds Intelligencer.*

IMMENSE BLOCK OF GRANITE.—Last week a "muckle hole" (a term used by the quarriers of stone) was put down 15 feet deep through solid granite, in one of the quarries of Stithians, near Penryn, belonging to Mr. Elliot, of the latter place. Only 25 lbs. of powder were deposited, which being blasted was found to have thrown off from its bed and side joints a block containing 20,300 cubic feet, or 1,400 tons, of excellent quality and blue colour, thus enabling the workmen to cut blocks of any dimensions required.—*West Briton.*

THE BAIGO CORN-EXCHANGE COMPETITION has been decided in favour of Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson, architects, of Hull; and the works are to progress immediately.

SPANISH CHURCHES.—A foreign correspondent of the *Athenaeum*, writing from Saragossa, says:—"A leading feature in Spanish churches is always the 'retablo,' a huge erection of carving, gilding, and painting in wood or stone, rising immediately behind the high altar, generally to the height of the roof. This 'retablo' is often very handsome in its way; but to those acquainted with the fine churches of the north of Europe, it must ever appear a miserable substitute for the beautiful east window or windows which it supercedes. The *Lady-chapel*, together with the range of chapels circling behind the high altar, which form so exquisitely beautiful a feature in many of our cathedrals, is almost always wanting in the north of Spain; possibly because the entire church is but a *Lady-chapel* in this land of ultra-Mariolatry. Thus the 'retablo' generally forms the eastern extremity of the building. The inclosed choir is often an eye-sore in our churches—it is yet more so in those of Spain. Placed generally from the altar, it is often near the west end of the nave; and consists of a solidly walled inclosure, which blocks up and embarrasses the perspective of the church aadly. It is shut in at the eastern end by an iron railway—"reja"—often magnificently worked, with a gate in the middle opposite to the altar."

NORTH SURREY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.—In consequence of the calamitous occurrence at the late Mr. Drouet's school at Tooting, the guardians of the poor-law unions forming the North Surrey district resolved to form a school district and to erect suitable buildings. For this purpose fifty acres of land have been purchased, adjoining the Anerley station of the Croydon Railway, at Penge, Surrey, and tenders have been advertised for, to carry out designs prepared for the building by Mr. Charles Lee. The establishment is to be industrial, to have accommodation for 250 boys, 210 girls, and 140 infants, with three school-rooms and class-rooms, with apartments for steward, matron, three school-masters, and three school-mistresses, with dining-room, chapel, chaplain's room, board-room, kitchens, bakery, offices, lavatories, baths, and work-shops; also separate laundry-building, with all the necessary rooms attached thereto for drying, ironing, &c.; likewise a detached infirmary building, having all the requisite wards, nurses' rooms, kitchen, washhouse, surgery, &c.; there are to be also farm-buildings, so that the boys may be instructed not only in trades, but in farming operations, and the girls in dairy-work as well as in cooking, household-work, and needle-work.

NEW CHURCH OF ST. PETER, AT CROYDON.—A few days ago the foundation-stone of this church was laid by Mr. George Robert Smith, the banker, whose seat is at Selodon, within the parish, the Rev. John George Hodgson, the vicar of Croydon, officiating. The site is very picturesque, on the side of a hill, ornamented with some good elms, and well seen from the Brighton Railway on the right, as it emerges from the cutting south of the Croydon station. The church is in the Early Decorated style, with aisles, south porch, and tower at the west end of nave, and is to accommodate 800 persons. The spire will be of shingle, the walls of flint, with facings of Maidstone stone. The site has been liberally presented by Mr. John Russell, the owner of the surrounding property. The architect is Mr. Scott. The church is to be built by contract, for which tenders have been made in consequence of advertisement, and we understand that eleven tenders were received, varying in amount from 6,893 l. to 12,913 l., and with variations also according to specified difference of materials. The two lowest tenders were by Mr. Myers and Mr. Wm. Harris; the former being lower in some respects and the latter in others. Mr. Harris being a townsman, the contract was given to him.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—At a meeting of the Works Committee of the Goulston-square model establishment, on 6th instant, returns were read, from which it appears that from 26th July, 1847, to 31st December, 1848, the number of bathers was 81,694, and the receipts 914 l. 19 s. 1 d.; and that thence to 1st instant, the number of bathers was 82,219, and the receipts 1,058 l. 1 s. 7 d. During the latter period the number of baths to men was 77,831,—to women, 3,187,—to children (some-

times four together) 1,201; and the weekly average was—to men, 2,223; women, 91; children, 35; weekly receipts, 30 l. 5 s. 4 d. That even these encouraging returns were limited by the accommodation, appears from another return, showing, that since all the baths have been brought into use, there was an increase of 36,679 bathers during the three last months, over those during the same months of last year. In the washing department, since 30th April last, the number of washers, to 1st instant, was 3,013; and the number of driers the same; the number of hours' washing and drying being 10,005—average 3 hrs. 20 min. to each washer and drier. No ironing appears to have been done.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES, LIVERPOOL.—A third suite of baths and washhouses have been ordered to be erected by the health committee, from plans proposed by the borough engineer. The site selected is at the junction of Cornwallis-street and Leveson-street, which forms the east corner of the spacious square inclosing St. Michael's Church and cemetery. The building, we are told, is designed in the simplest Italian style, two stories in height, and with projecting roof, and includes first, second, and third-class baths, and two classes of washing stalls, each of which will be distinct and separate from the rest, "with improved and original contrivances for wringing and drying the clothes."

WELBECK.—The Duke of Portland has long contemplated a great work, which is now in the course of being vigorously prosecuted. This is the erection of a bridge over the Welbeck lake head, near what is called Mosshall and the Dogkennels. Masons are daily expected from London, and a good deal of stone has been already got and hewn ready in blocks of various dimensions. The high hill, at Whitwell, has supplied some much more preferable to the Anston stone, it is said, which has been so much called for for the new Parliament Houses.—*Derby Courier.*

MANCHESTER BOROUGH GAOL.—The new prison at Manchester, alluded to by us some time since, is now nearly completed. It is stated that the cost of it will be about 120,000 l., and it is calculated to accommodate 500 prisoners. The cost, per individual, will therefore be 240 l. About two years have been occupied in raising it. The boundary wall of the gaol incloses almost ten acres of ground, of which 5,641 square yards are occupied by the prison building, the remainder being exercising grounds, yards, &c.

A WIRE SUSPENSION BRIDGE has been thrown across the Ohio. It is 1,010 feet in length.

THE IRON-ROOF, LIME-STREET STATION, LIVERPOOL.—At a meeting of the Liverpool Polytechnic Society, held last week, Mr. Turner, of Dublin, who is constructing the new galvanised iron roofing and other iron works of the Lime-street railway station, furnished the meeting with the following particulars:—"The roof covers an area of 6,140 square yards, being about 360 feet in length, and 153 feet 6 inches in width. There are no intermediate columns; but this great space is spanned over by one stupendous arch, rising in a segment of a circle, to a central height of 30 feet from the spring or chord. The roof consists of 17 curved girders of wrought-iron, resting at one side upon the walls of the offices, and at the other upon east-iron columns of the Doric order, connected by ornamental arches, in perforated iron. These girders are trussed vertically by a series of radiating struts, acted upon by the bars connected with the extremities of the girders; and they are trussed horizontally by a series of purlins and diagonal rods, thus forming one rigid piece of framing from end to end. Upon this framing will be laid plates of galvanised corrugated iron, and three ranges of plate-glass (in sheets about 12 feet 6 inches in length, and of great thickness), extending the whole length of the roof. In consequence of the great extent of surface exposed to the variations of temperature, provision has been made for expansion and contraction of the iron without injury to its bearings. The roof, when finished, will weigh about 700 tons. The whole of the work, with the exception of the cast-iron columns and ornamental arches, is of wrought-iron. The iron columns upon which the roof rests on the south side of the yard are 2 feet 3 inches in diameter at their bases. Six of the girders are fixed, and the centres struck,